REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL # RF 003-0407 Independent Evaluator Iowa's Reading First Program

Questions and Responses

1. (Three questions submitted, all requiring the same response.) Could you provide an estimate of the amount of award you would anticipate granting? What is the dollar amount proposed for the work? Is there a maximum amount budgeted for this evaluation project? If not, is there a budget range you are anticipating?

An award amount or budget range has not been determined.

2. Will the evaluator be able to get assessment and other data directly from the state? If so, is it at the student or school level?

The successful vendor will be able to access the assessment and other data from the established data base with approval from the Department. The data will be available at the student and school level.

3. (Two questions submitted, both requiring the same response.) What assessment data is available for each grade (K-4)? Do all schools give the same test? What test data do you have for each grade?

All Reading First schools are required to submit student performance data from the Phonological Awareness Test, the Basic Reading Inventory and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

The following table indicates the tests required in Fall and Spring by grade for Reading First State Evaluation purposes.

TEST	FALL					SPRING					
	K	1	2	3	4	K	1	2	3	4	
Phonological Awareness Test											
(PAT): Phonemic Awareness											
Rhyming	X	X				X	X				
Deletion	X	X				X	X				
Blending	X	X				X	X				
Segmentation		X					X				
Isolation		X					X				
Substitution		X					X				
Phonological Awareness Test											
(PAT): Phonics											

Graphemes		Х				X			
Decoding		X				X			
Basic Reading Inventory (BRI)									
Fluency (Grade level			X	X			X	X	
passage)									
Comprehension (Grade level			X	X			X	X	
passage)									
Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)									
Reading Total (NPR & IPR)									
Reading Comprehension				See				S	ee
(NPR & IPR)				No	te			Note	
Vocabulary (NPR & IPR)									
	·	·							

Note: ITBS is required for 3rd and 4th graders, however it is only administered once per year. Schools determine when the ITBS is administered.

4. It says, "The vendor will have access to and use of Iowa's Reading First data. In addition, the vendor will utilize data collection tools developed by the Department." What type of tools do you have?

The Department has identified both a set of interview questions and a tool for gathering information on practices in schools making substantial progress that will be the basis for this study. In addition, the Department has collected information related to school actions through a web-based Technical Assistance Report that the successful vendor will be able to access.

5. We understand that the proposal materials must be submitted electronically. Does this apply to attachments (e.g. work samples from other projects) as well or can these be sent in hard copy?

All materials, including work samples from projects, need to be submitted electronically or accessible through the Internet.

6. For audited financial statements that are required, would the letter accompanying the financial audits suffice or do you need the entire annual reports? Also do the documents need to be submitted electronically?

The letter accompanying the financial audits will suffice. Copies of the letters will need to be submitted electronically.

7. Can you provide an example of required "financial references?" Are these references from our clients relative to our handing of evaluation project funds or from financial institutes?

Financial references need to be provided by financial institutes.

8. If there are 7 – 10 schools that will be involved in Reading First, should the contractor budget for 7 or 10 in considering project related costs?

The vendor should submit a budget that would support involvement of 10 schools.

9. Will you require bound copies of the final report? If so, how many are required?

Bound copies of the final report will not be required.

10. Is there an incumbent on previous Reading First evaluations? If so, can you identify the incumbent?

There is no incumbent for the activities covered by this RFP.

11. Page 4 of the RFP indicates that "any contract resulting from the RFP shall not be an exclusive contract." Please clarify what is meant by "not be an exclusive contract."

The Department has the right to contract with another vendor to do similar work.

12. How many Reading First buildings will be included in the evaluation?

The number of Reading First buildings to be included in this evaluation will be finalized following a more in-depth analysis of the data. At this time, we are planning for 7 to 10 buildings to be involved in the evaluation project.

a. Will any non-Reading First buildings be included in the evaluation?

There may be buildings included in this evaluation project that are no longer receiving Reading First funds but all buildings included in this project will have participated in Reading First for at least three years.

b. If non-Reading First buildings will participate in the evaluation, how many buildings will be included?

There will not be any buildings in this evaluation that have not participated in Reading First.

13. Section 2.18 Copyrights

 Please clarify what is meant by the Department has the right to use ideas or adaptations of ideas that are presented in the bid proposals.

The Department has the right to use ideas presented in any of the bid proposals.

ii. Please clarify what is meant by the Department reserving all copyrights to products and materials developed through this project. What is meant by products and materials?

All reports and data, as well as data gathering tools (e.g. surveys, interview questions, etc.) are the property of the Department.

14. How are rural versus urban districts defined?

For the purposes of this project, the definition for urban and rural districts will be collaboratively defined by the Department and the successful vendor.